

Appl. No. : 09/965,054
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any new matter to the specification. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Affirmation of Election

Applicant affirms that the invention of Group II and the species including the rotation drum sticking body (Claims 5 and 6) are elected to be prosecuted. This election is made without traverse; however, if a generic claim (currently Claim 5) is held allowed, it is requested that a non-elected species (Claims 7 and 8) be rejoined and examined on the merits.

Specification

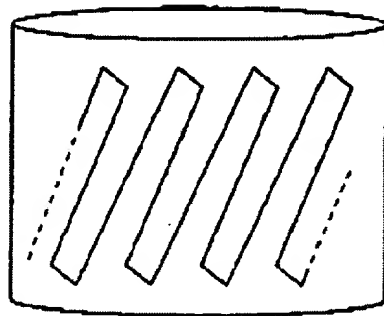
The specification has been reviewed and amended to correct informalities.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

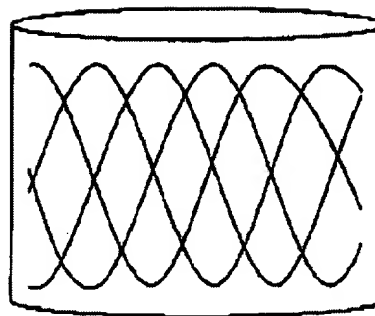
Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lowe (3,002,874) or, alternatively, Mitchell (3,063,491) or Frisby (3,183,134). The claims as amended herein could not be anticipated by the prior art as explained below.

Claim 5 as amended herein recites (i) reciprocating the supply head along a widthwise direction, (ii) reciprocating the sticking surface along longitudinal direction with a forward movement at a pitch to arrange the ply cord substantially parallel to each other, and (iii) controlling a disposition angle of the ply cord with respect to said longitudinal direction by changing a moving amount of the sticking surface with respect to a moving amount of the supply head. In the present invention, not only the supply head but also the sticking surface have a reciprocating movement, and thus, ply cords can be arranged parallel to each other as shown in Figures 3 and 6, and the disposition angle can be changed as shown in Figure 7.

In contrast, in Lowe, the former 4 and the guide pulley 32 are mechanically connected to each other and move at a fixed ratio, and the former cannot move backward. For example, the former 4 will rotate somewhat more than once when the guide pulley 32 performs reciprocating movements for three times (col. 5, lines 17-29) In Lowe, ply cords are supplied cycle by cycle while continuously rotating the drum, thereby forming a sine curve pattern as illustrated below.



the present invention



the cited reference (Lowe)

In Lower, because only a sine curve pattern can be formed, deposition must be repeated. In the present invention, as shown above, ply cords can consecutively be arranged parallel to each other. The present invention could not be anticipated by Lower.

Further, neither Mitchell nor Frisby teaches the above features. In Mitchell, the motor 12 rotates both shaft 3 and shaft 24 (column 3, lines 1-5), and the former 2 cannot move backward independently of the roller 27. In Frisby, the tire mold 1 cannot move reciprocally, and it is impossible to form a pattern shown in Figures 3, 6, and especially 7 of the present invention. The present invention could not be anticipated by these reference.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

New Claim 16

Claim 16 is dependent on Claim 5 and further distinguishes the invention. As with Claims 5 and 6, Claim 16 also could not be anticipated by the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 18, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

The present invention relates to a carcass ply producing apparatus for producing a carcass ply ~~which constitutes a carcass layer of a tire, a carcass ply producing method using this apparatus, and a pneumatic tire constituting incorporating the carcass ply layer by the carcass ply produced using~~produced by this apparatus.

Paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

Currently, a radial tire which is mainstream of a pneumatic tire generally comprises a carcass layer in which a portion between a pair of annular beads is reinforced and a plurality of cords are arranged in a radial direction of the tire (a meridional direction), and a plurality of belt layers in which the carcass layer located below a tread is reinforced by hoop effect, and the cords includes a plurality of belt layers which are inclined in a circumferential direction of the tire. Rigidity of the carcass layer is large in the radial direction of the tire ~~is great, but rigidity thereof relatively small~~ in the circumferential direction ~~is small, while the rigidity of the belt layer is large in the circumferential direction of the tire is great, but rigidity thereof relatively small~~ in the radial direction ~~is small~~.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

Therefore, a local stress ~~is prone to~~can be generated in a belt end ~~which is in the vicinity of a boundary between the carcass layer and the belt layer, which lowers durability of the tire. When the vehicle corners, it is known that a reaction force is abruptly reduced if the vehicle reaches a slip limit, and it is not possible to drive the vehicle in some cases.~~

Paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

On the other hand, in the case of bias tires, which existed prior to the manufacture of existing before the radial tires, rigidity of the tread is insufficient and has no cornering reaction force and, thus, motion is inferior. Further, it is known that shearing distortion is generated in ~~a the tire side wall due to flexing wherein~~ the tire side wall due to flexing ~~wherein~~ flection is generated during running.

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because the cords intersect each other, and that portion is prone to become fatigued and destroyed.

Paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 4 has been amended as follows:

If the radius of curvature of the bent portion becomes small, there is a problem that a great shearing force is generated between the layers of the upper layer bent portion and the lower layer bent portion of the carcass layer of the double layered structure and thus, the bent portion is prone to be fatigued and may be destroyed. Further, since the bent portion is discontinuously changed in cord angle, there are problems that ~~prediction ability~~predictability of the slip limit at the time of cornering is low and improvement in safety is small like the radial tire.

Paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

~~Thereupon, it~~ It is an object of the present invention to provide a carcass ply producing apparatus and a carcass ply producing method wherein the disposition angle of a ply cord can be changed ~~capable of changing the disposition angle of a ply cord halfway in along its widthwise direction, and capable of realizing at~~ a predetermined bending angle.

Paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

It is another object of the invention to provide a pneumatic tire capable of keeping a predetermined shape in a tire having flattening of 70% or less, and capable of enhancing the ~~prediction ability~~predictability of cornering to improve safety, and having durability higher than that of a conventional tire.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

To achieve the above objects, the present invention provides a carcass ply producing apparatus for producing a carcass ply ~~constituting a carcass layer~~ of a tire comprising a supply head for supplying one or a plurality of ply cords, a head driving mechanism for reciprocating the supply head along a widthwise direction of the carcass ply, a sticking body having a sticking surface to which the ply cord supplied by the supply head is stuck, a sticking body driving mechanism for moving the sticking surface of the sticking body along

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a longitudinal direction of the carcass ply, and a moving amount controlling mechanism capable of controlling a moving amount of the sticking surface with respect to a moving amount of the supply head, wherein when the ply cord is supplied along the widthwise direction of the carcass ply, a disposition angle of the ply cord with respect to the longitudinal direction can be changed.

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

Working effects of the carcass ply producing apparatus having the above structure is as follows:

- (1) ~~First, one~~ One or a plurality of ply cords are supplied to a sticking surface of a sticking body by a supply head.
- (2) ~~In this case, the~~ The supply head reciprocates along a widthwise direction of the carcass ply, which corresponds to the. ~~The widthwise direction is a direction corresponding to the tire meridional direction of the tire.~~
- (3) The sticking surface can move along the longitudinal direction of the carcass ply, which corresponds to the. ~~Here, the longitudinal direction is a direction corresponding to a circumferential direction of the tire.~~
- (4) A moving amount of the sticking surface can be controlled with respect to ~~a moving amount of the supply head can be controlled.~~

Paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 9 has been amended as follows:

To achieve the above objects of the present invention, there is provided a carcass ply producing method for producing a carcass ply ~~constituting a carcass layer of a tire~~ comprising

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

The present invention also provides a pneumatic tire having two or more carcass layers for reinforcing between a pair of annular beads, and a reinforcing layer having a cord arranged on an outer peripheral surface of the carcass layer below a tread surface in a circumferential direction of a tire, and a flattening of the pneumatic tire being 70% or less, wherein the cord constituting the carcass layers are arranged substantially in a radial

direction in a region of the tire from the bead to a position near a tire maximum width, and from that position to a grounding end, an angle with respect to a circumferential direction of the tire is gradually changed, and the angle is 20 to 60° with respect to the circumferential direction of the tire in the vicinity of the grounding end, and the angle is 20 to 50° at the tread surface. The carcass layers are laminated at an angle substantially symmetrical with respect to a tire equator line, and a tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the reinforcing layer is 1.2 times or more of the carcass layers.

Paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

Here, the tread surface is a range of inner side of grounding end of each of opposite sides of the tire. A criterion of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the reinforcing layer is the entire width of the reinforcing layer, and a criterion of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the carcass layer is the tread surface, apparent Young's modulus of the cord is measured in accordance with initial tensile resistance of JIS L-1017 chemical textile tire cord testing method, the number of cord strikes ~~per width~~ per unit width and a value obtained by multiplying the cord area of cross section by the number of layers are defined as the tensile modulus. A criterion of the number of strikes is a cured tire, but the number of strikes when material is prepared can be set from inflate rate at the time of forming.

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 11 has been amended as follows:

According to the pneumatic tire of the invention, the cord angle with respect to the tire circumferential direction from the tire maximum width to the grounding end is gradually changed. Therefore, ~~the~~ a reinforcing effect is continuous. Thus, ~~prediction~~ ability predictability of the cornering is high, and safety is enhanced. There is no bent portion in which the cord angle is changed discontinuously, and since the cord is disposed substantially in the radial direction of the tire from the bead to the tire maximum width, peeling off phenomenon between the two layers is less prone to be generated, and stress is less prone to be concentrated. Further, not only in the tread surface, but also in the outside shoulder portion, the cords intersect at a small angle to enhance the rigidity in the circumferential direction and thus, kinetic ability of cornering is enhanced. Since the tensile

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modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the reinforcing layer is 1.2 times or more of the carcass layer, a predetermined shape of the tread surface can be obtained even if the flattening is small. Further, the rigidity in the circumferential direction is enhanced by the reinforcing layer, and rigidity in the lateral direction is also enhanced by the carcass layer in which the cords intersect. Therefore, it is possible to enhance both the kinetic ability of cornering and safety. As a result, it is possible to provide a pneumatic tire in which a predetermined shape can be held in a tire having flattening of 70% or less, and the ~~prediction ability~~predictability of the cornering and safety are improved and durability is higher than that of the conventional tire.

Paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

In the above structure, it is preferable that the reinforcing layer includes a central portion having a width of 45 to 80% of entire width of the tread surface located at a center of and below the tread surface, and opposite sides having tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width which is lower than that of the central portion. Here, a criterion of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of each portion of the reinforcing layer is the entire width of each portion.

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

It is preferable that the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the central portion is 1.2 times or more of a tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the side.

Paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

The working effect of the pneumatic tire of this structure ~~is as follows~~produces various advantages.

Paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

~~That is,~~For instance, since the radial region is included in the region including the position near the tire maximum width, riding comfort can be maintained excellently. Further, since the bias region is included on the side of the bead in that region, rigidity of the carcass layer can be enhanced near the bead, steering stability, driving and control abilities

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can be enhanced. Since the bias region is also included in the tread of the radial region, rigidity of the carcass layer near the shoulder and tread can be enhanced. As a result, merits of the radial tire and bias tire can properly be used finely in each portion of the tire, it is possible to provide a pneumatic tire in which riding comfort can be maintained excellently, the rigidity near the bead and the shoulder can be enhanced, and reinforcing structure in that portion is unnecessary or simplified.

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

In the case of this structure, the bias region and the radial region are disposed at preferred positions in this order, the above ~~effect~~advantages can be obtained more reliably.

Paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 15 has been amended as follows:

In the case of this structure, the radial region reinforced by the belt layer exhibits high rigidity in both the circumferential direction and widthwise direction of the tire, and the bias regions on the opposite sides thereof exhibit appropriate rigidity. Thus, the continuity of the rigidity with respect to the radial region near the tire maximum width can be kept. As a result, during the cornering, it is possible to enhance the ~~prediction ability~~predictability of the slip limit.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 15 has been amended as follows:

In this case, the bias region, the radial region, the bias region and the radial region are disposed at preferred positions in this order, the above ~~effect~~advantages can be obtained more reliably.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 17 has been amended as follows:

Preferred embodiments of a carcass ply producing apparatus and a pneumatic tire of the present invention will be explained using the drawings. First, a pneumatic tire constituting a carcass layer ~~by a carcass ply~~ produced by the carcass ply producing apparatus will be explained. Fig.1 is a partial sectional view showing a pneumatic tire according to a first embodiment. Fig.2(a) is a front view of partially cut pneumatic tire, and Fig.2(b) is a plan view thereof.

Paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 17 has been amended as follows:

~~In the present invention, flattening showing, with percentage, a value~~ As used herein,
the term flattening is expressed as a percentage and is obtained by dividing a height H of
cross section of the tire by a tire maximum width W. The flattening in the present invention
is 70% or less. As the flattening is reduced to 65% or less or 60% or less, the present
invention having the above effects becomes more effective. That is, it is possible to enhance
the prediction of the cornering to improve the safety, and to enhance the cornering
performance by flattening the tire.

Paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

A reinforcing layer 6 ~~is a layer in which comprises~~ comprises cords that are arranged in a tire
circumferential direction (i.e., direction which is parallel to the tire equator line CL). The
reinforcing layer 6, ~~and is~~ disposed at a position below the tread surface Tr of the outer
peripheral surface of the outermost carcass layer 5b. It is unnecessary that the reinforcing
layer 6 coincides with a width of the tread surface Tr, and usually has a width in a range
exceeding a width of the tread surface Tr. More specifically, it is preferable that the width
of the reinforcing layer 6 ~~is~~ be 1.0 to 1.3 times of the width of the tread surface Tr.

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

Tensile modulus per entire width of the reinforcing layer 6 is 1.2 times or more of
tensile modulus (sum of all the layers) of the carcass layer 5 of the treat Tr, and is preferably
1.5 to 6 times. If the tensile modulus exceeds 6 times, the tire is inferior in terms of
processing aspect or producing aspect. The tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the
reinforcing layer 6 can be adjusted by the number of strike of the cord, the cord thickness
and material of the cord, ~~and component of fiber,~~ and processing condition of the fiber. The
same is applied to the carcass layer 5 also.

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 20 has been amended as follows:

Examples of cord material ~~of the cord~~ constituting the carcass layer 5 ~~are~~ include
organic fibers such as polyester, polyamide and polyaramide or steel and the like. Examples

of cord material ~~of the cord~~ constituting the reinforcing layer 6 ~~are also~~ include organic fiber such as polyester, polyamide and polyaramide or steel and the like. In the present invention, since it is unnecessary to provide a plurality of belt layers unlike the conventional radial tire, weight of the tire can be lowered. Further, since the reinforcing layer 6 reinforces the biased carcass layer 5, bending rigidity of that portion is enhanced and thus, the cord of the reinforcing layer 6 can be constituted by ~~the~~ an organic fiber to further reduce the weight. It is possible to enhance both the cornering performance and safety.

Paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 20 has been amended as follows:

Preferably, the reinforcing layer 6 is provided at its central position below the tread surface Tr with a central portion 6a disposed in a range Tc of 45 to 80% of the entire width of the tread surface Tr, and opposite side portions 6b having lower tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the central portion 6a. ~~This~~ In this embodiment shows the example ~~which the number of strikes of the central portion 6a is increased~~ greater than that of the side portions 6b. The reinforcing layer 6 is usually formed in such a manner that after shaping, a ribbon-like reinforcing layer comprising one or small number of cords are spirally wound so as to remove cut portions of the cords. It is possible to increase the number of strikes of the central portion 6a by changing the winding pitch.

Paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 21 has been amended as follows:

In the present invention, it is preferable that the tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the central portion 6a is 1.2 time or more of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of the side portion 6b. More preferably, the tensile modulus ~~per width~~ per unit width of a portion from a center (position on the tire equator line CL) of the reinforcing layer 6 to the opposite ends is gradually reduced. This can be done also by gradually increasing the winding pitch.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 22 has been amended as follows:

(1) In the first embodiment, two carcass layers are provided. The number of the layers may be even number such as four. In such a case ~~also~~, it is preferable that the pair of carcass layers are laminated such that the cords are disposed at substantially symmetrical

angle with respect to a tire equator line, and the cords of the carcass layers laminated in the same direction are disposed in the same direction at their positions.

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 22 has been amended as follows:

(2) In the first embodiment, one reinforcing layer in the circumferential direction is provided, and the tensile modulus per unit width is enhanced by changing the number of strikes at the central portion. Alternatively, the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width may be enhanced by providing two reinforcing layers of central portion. Two or more reinforcing layers may be provided.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 22 has been amended as follows:

As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, a pneumatic tire of the second embodiment includes two or more carcass layers 5 for reinforcing between a pair of annular beads 1a. In this embodiment, the carcass layer 5 comprises an upper layer 5b and a lower layer 5a. In this invention, a region in which an angle θ_s formed between a cord constituting the carcass layer and a tire circumferential direction PD is $90 \pm 10^\circ$ is defined as a radial region RR, and a region in which the cords of the upper and lower layers intersect with each other when the angle θ_s ("cord angle" in some cases hereinafter) between the cord and the tire circumferential direction PD is 10 to 60° (absolute value) is defined as a bias region BR. The cord angle θ_s of each of the upper and lower layers may be slightly varied at the intersection.

Paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 24 has been amended as follows:

~~As a material of the cord constituting the~~The belt layer 6; may comprise any of material ~~which is used for conventional belt layer 6 such as steel or organic fiber including polyester may be used. Examples of~~The cord material constituting the fiber reinforcing layer ~~are~~may comprise an organic fiber such as polyester, polyamide and polyaramide.

Paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 25 has been amended as follows:

The lower carcass layer 5a and the upper carcass layer 5b are laminated such that cords are disposed substantially symmetrically with respect to the tire equator line CL.

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~~Examples of material of t~~The cord constituting the carcass layer 5 ~~are~~may comprise an organic fiber such as polyester, polyamide and polyaramide or steel and the like.

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 26 has been amended as follows:

~~In the present invention, flattening showing, with percentage, a value obtained by dividing a height H of cross section of the tire by a tire maximum width W~~As mentioned above herein, the flattening in the present invention is 70% or less. As the flattening is reduced to 65% or less or 60% or less, it is possible to enhance the prediction of the cornering to improve the safety, and to enhance the cornering performance by flattening the tire.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 27 has been amended as follows:

In the above case, it is preferable that the belt layer is not provided on the outer peripheral surface of the bias region of the tread, and a reinforcing layer in which the cord is arranged in the tire circumferential direction is provided. It is preferable that this reinforcing layer has tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of 1.2 time or more of that of the carcass layer. ~~It is preferable that t~~The reinforcing layer preferably includes a central portion disposed in a range of 45 to 80% of the entire tread surface in a central position below the tread surface, and opposite sides having tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width lower than that of the central portion. ~~It is preferable that the~~The tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the central portion is preferably 1.2 times or more of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the side.

Paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 28 has been amended as follows:

Here, the tread surface ~~is a range of~~includes the inner side of grounding end ~~of each of~~on opposite sides of the tire. A criterion of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the reinforcing layer is the entire width of the reinforcing layer, and a criterion of the tensile modulus ~~per width~~per unit width of the carcass layer is the tread surface, apparent Young's modulus of the cord is measured in accordance with initial tensile resistance of JIS L-1017 chemical textile tire cord testing method, the number of cord strikes ~~per width~~per unit width and a value obtained by multiplying the cord area of cross section by the number of layers

are defined as the tensile modulus. A criterion of the number of strikes is a cured tire, but the number of strikes when material is prepared can be set from inflate rate at the time of forming.

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 28 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 7A to 7B show a line symmetric arrangement with respect to the tire equator line CL. Figs. 7C to 7D show a symmetric arrangement with respect to a point at the intersection between the cord and the tire equator line CL. In the above modification (1), for example, a carcass ply having cord arrangement shown in Fig. 7(d) can be used.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 31 has been amended as follows:

The supply head 19 includes a first head section 191 and a second head section 192. The first head section 191 includes supply rollers 191a, 191b and a pressure roller 191c. Similarly, the second head section 192 includes supply rollers 192a, 192b and a pressure roller 192c. Although Fig. 10 shows only the side of the second head section 192, the rollers 192a, 192b, 192c are supported on a first supporting body 193 by a bearing 197 and a bolt 196. The first supporting body 193 is fixed to a second supporting body 194 by means of bolts 198. The second supporting body 194 can be driven vertically by a cylinder 195. The first head section 191 also has the same structure. A mechanism for vertically ~~moves~~ moving the second supporting body 194 may employ a motor or cam.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 32 has been amended as follows:

In Fig. 9, the cord 10a is supplied ~~downward~~ from above and travels downward. The cord 10a is sandwiched between the supply rollers 191a and 192a and the pressure rollers 191b and 192b and supplied, and stuck to the sticking surface of the tray 17 by the pressure rollers 191b and 192b. In Fig. 9, the supply head 19 is moving from left side to the right side. In this case, the cord 10a is pushed by the pressure rollers 191b and 191c on the side of the first head section 191, and the second head section 192 floats up from the sticking surface slightly. On the other hand, when the supply head 19 moves from the right side to the left wide, the cord 10a is pushed by the pressure rollers 192b and 192c on the side of the second head section 192.

Paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 34 has been amended as follows:

If a carcass ply corresponding to one tire is produced on the tray 17, the cord 10a is cut, a new tray 17 is placed, the same operations are carried out, thereby producing a next carcass ply. By repeating this procedure, the necessary number of carcass plies are produced. The ~~produced~~ carcass plies produced on the tray 17 are supplied to a forming machine one by one, thereby producing a tire using a known method.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 34 has been amended as follows:

~~It is preferable that~~ The reinforcing layer 6 is preferably formed by spirally winding one or a small number of cords around the shaped object. Using the cord covered with rubber as in the above manner, the guide of the cord is moved in the widthwise direction while rotating the shaped object, thereby spirally winding the cord. By changing the moving speed of the guide at that time, the number of strikes at the widthwise direction can be changed.

Paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 34 has been amended as follows:

In order to obtain a predetermined tire shape and a predetermined cord angle at each portion, it is preferable to appropriately adjust the cord angle when the carcass plies 8a and 8b are produced. In the case of ~~the~~ a bias tire, a relation between a cord angle in the ply state and a cord angle after the tire is formed can be calculated by the following known relational equation (approximate expression), and this relational equation can also be applied in the present invention. If "Ad" is used as variable and "R" of the corresponding portion is determined, "A" can be obtained.

Paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 37 has been amended as follows:

A structure of a third embodiment of a carcass ply producing apparatus ~~of the third embodiment~~ will be explained with reference to Fig.12. Members having the same functions as those in the first embodiment are designated with the same numbers, and explanation thereof is omitted.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A carcass ply producing method for producing a carcass ply constituting a carcass layer of a tire comprising:

~~a step for supplying at least one or a plurality of ply cords by a supply head,~~

~~a step for reciprocating said supply head along a widthwise direction of said carcass ply,~~

~~a step for sticking said ply cord supplied by said supply head to a sticking body having a sticking surface,~~

~~a step for moving~~reciprocating said sticking surface of said sticking body along a longitudinal direction of said carcass ply with a forward movement at a pitch to arrange said ply cord substantially parallel to each other, and

~~a step for controlling a moving amount of said sticking surface with respect to a moving amount of said supply head, wherein~~

~~in said step for reciprocating said supply head,~~controlling a disposition angle of said ply cord with respect to said longitudinal direction can be changed by changing a moving amount of said sticking surface with respect to a moving amount of said supply head.

Claim 16 has been added.